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W O R K

H A R D .

B E

How Two Inspired  
Teachers Created  
the Most Promising  
Schools in America

N I C E .

Jay Mathews



# **Work Hard Be Nice How Two Inspired Teachers Created The Most Promising Schools In America Jay Mathews**

**Heather Kirn Lanier**



# Work Hard Be Nice How Two Inspired Teachers Created The Most Promising Schools In America Jay Mathews

*Work Hard. Be Nice.* Jay Mathews, 2009-01-20 When Mike Feinberg and Dave Levin signed up for Teach for America right after college and found themselves utter failures in the classroom they vowed to remake themselves into superior educators They did that and more In their early twenties by sheer force of talent and determination never to take no for an answer they created a wildly successful fifth grade experience that would grow into the Knowledge Is Power Program KIPP which today includes sixty six schools in nineteen states and the District of Columbia KIPP schools incorporate what Feinberg and Levin learned from America s best most charismatic teachers lessons need to be lively school days need to be longer the KIPP day is nine and a half hours the completion of homework has to be sacrosanct KIPP teachers are available by telephone day and night Chants songs and slogans such as Work hard be nice energize the program Illuminating the ups and downs of the KIPP founders and their students Mathews gives us something quite rare a hopeful book about education Teaching As Leadership Teach For America, Steven Farr, 2010-02-02 A road map for teachers who strive to be highly effective leaders in our nation s classrooms Teach For America has fought the daunting battle of educational equity for the last twenty years Based on evidence from classrooms across the country they ve discovered much about effective teaching practice and distilled these findings into the six principles presented in this book The Teaching As Leadership framework inspires teachers to Set Big Goals Invest Students and Their Families Plan Purposefully Execute Effectively Continuously Increase Effectiveness Work Relentlessly The results are better educational outcomes for our nation s children particularly those who live in low income communities Inspires educators to be leaders in their classrooms and schools Demystifies what it means to be an effective teacher describes key elements of practice and provides a clear vision of success Addresses the challenges every teacher in every classroom faces on a daily basis An accompanying website includes a wealth of tools videos sample lessons discussion boards and case studies **The Smartest Kids in the World** Amanda Ripley, 2014-07-29 Following three teenagers who chose to spend one school year living in Finland South Korea and Poland a literary journalist recounts how attitudes parenting and rigorous teaching have revolutionized these countries education results *Crazy Like a Fox* Ben Chavis, Carey Blakely, 2010-09-07 The inspiring true story of one of the country s finest educators National Review and the school he changed forever Under the leadership of highly unorthodox principal Dr Ben Chavis Oakland s American Indian Public Charter School was hailed as an education miracle by governor Arnold Schwarzenegger after it was transformed from a failing nuisance into one of the best public middle schools in the nation This is the story of that transformation and of a man who dared to be different With his rigorous no nonsense approach Dr Chavis debunks the myth that poor minority inner city

schools have little chance at academic excellence Focusing on back to basics ideals he has created a structured educational model that combined with the enthusiasm of his students and teachers delivers astounding results In Crazy Like a Fox Dr Chavis recounts how he did it in his own words and through the stories of the extraordinary young people he s helped

**Teaching in the Terrordome** Heather Kirn Lanier,2012-10-01 Only 50 percent of kids growing up in poverty will earn a high school diploma Just one in ten will graduate college Compelled by these troubling statistics Heather Kirn Lanier joined Teach For America TFA a program that thrusts eager but inexperienced college graduates into America s most impoverished areas to teach asking them to do whatever is necessary to catch their disadvantaged kids up to the rest of the nation With little more than a five week teacher boot camp and the knowledge that David Simon referred to her future school as The Terrordome the altruistic and naive Lanier devoted herself to attaining the program s goals but met obstacles on all fronts The building itself was in such poor condition that tiles fell from the ceiling at random Kids from the halls barged into classes all day disrupting even the most carefully planned educational activities In the middle of one lesson a wandering student lit her classroom door on fire Some colleagues instantly suspicious of TFA s intentions withheld their help and supplies They think you re trying to save the children one teacher said And although high school students can be by definition resistant in west Baltimore they threw eggs slashed tires and threatened teachers lives Within weeks Lanier realized that the task she was charged with achieving quantifiable gains in her students learning would require something close to a miracle Superbly written and timely Teaching in the Terrordome casts an unflinching gaze on one of America s dropout factory high schools Though Teach For America often touts its most successful teacher stories in this powerful memoir Lanier illuminates a more common experience of Teaching For America with thoughtful complexity a poet s eye and an engaging voice As hard as Lanier worked to become a competent teacher she found that in The Terrordome idealism wasn t enough To persevere she had to rely on grit humility a little comedy and a willingness to look failure in the face As she adjusted to a chaotic school administration crumbling facilities burned out colleagues and students who perceived their school for the failure it was she gained perspective on the true state of the crisis TFA sets out to solve Ultimately she discovered that contrary to her intentions survival in the so called Charm City was a high expectation *Building a Better Teacher: How Teaching Works (and How to Teach It to Everyone)* Elizabeth Green,2014-08-04 A New York Times Notable Book A must read book for every American teacher and taxpayer Amanda Ripley author of The Smartest Kids in the World Launched with a hugely popular New York Times Magazine cover story Building a Better Teacher sparked a national conversation about teacher quality and established Elizabeth Green as a leading voice in education Green s fascinating and accessible narrative dispels the common myth of the natural born teacher and introduces maverick educators exploring the science behind their art Her dramatic account reveals that great teaching is not magic but a skill a skill that can be taught Now with a new afterword that offers a guide on how to identify and support great teachers this provocative and hopeful book should be part of every new teacher s

education Washington Post **Teaching America** David Feith,2011-09-16 In Teaching America more than 20 leading thinkers sound the alarm over a crisis in citizenship and lay out a powerful agenda for reform The book s unprecedented roster of authors includes Justice Sandra Day O Connor Senator Jon Kyl Senator Bob Graham Secretary Rod Paige Alan Dershowitz Juan Williams Glenn Reynolds Michael Kazin Frederick Hess Andrew Rotherham Mike Feinberg Seth Andrew Mark Bauerlein and more Their message To remain America our country has to give its kids a civic identity an understanding of our constitutional system and some appreciation of the amazing achievements of American self government But we are failing Young Americans know little about the Bill of Rights the democratic process or the civil rights movement Three of every four high school seniors aren t proficient in civics nine of ten can t cut it in U S history and the problem is only aggravated by universities disregard for civic education Such civic illiteracy weakens our common culture disenfranchises would be voters and helps poison our politics Simply Better Bryan Goodwin,2011-08-22 We already know what works in schools we just need to focus on getting it right This is the premise of Simply Better Doing What Matters Most to Change the Odds for Student Success which offers a practical research based framework for improving student achievement According to author Bryan Goodwin decades of research have shown time and again that focusing on the following five essential practices can vastly increase students chances of doing well in school Guaranteeing that instruction is challenging engaging and intentional Ensuring curricular pathways to success Providing whole child student supports Creating high performance school cultures Developing data driven high reliability district systems Whether at the district school or classroom level educators don t need to reinvent the wheel or pursue the latest trends to ensure that students succeed This powerful book reveals what research clearly shows works best in schools and provides a valuable blueprint for turning that knowledge into visible results The Teacher Wars Dana Goldstein,2014-09-02 In her groundbreaking history of 175 years of American education Dana Goldstein finds answers in the past to the controversies that plague our public schools today Teaching is a wildly contentious profession in America one attacked and admired in equal measure In The Teacher Wars a rich lively and unprecedented history of public school teaching Dana Goldstein reveals that teachers have been similarly embattled for nearly two centuries From the genteel founding of the common schools movement in the nineteenth century to the violent inner city teacher strikes of the 1960s and 70s from the dispatching of Northeastern women to frontier schoolhouses to the founding of Teach for America on the Princeton University campus in 1989 Goldstein shows that the same issues have continued to bedevil us Who should teach What should be taught Who should be held accountable for how our children learn She uncovers the surprising roots of hot button issues from teacher tenure to charter schools and finds that recent popular ideas to improve schools instituting merit pay evaluating teachers by student test scores ranking and firing veteran teachers and recruiting elite graduates to teach are all approaches that have been tried in the past without producing widespread change And she also discovers an emerging effort that stands a real chance of transforming our schools for the better

drawing on the best practices of the three million public school teachers we already have in order to improve learning throughout our nation's classrooms The Teacher Wars upends the conversation about American education by bringing the lessons of history to bear on the dilemmas we confront today By asking How did we get here Dana Goldstein brilliantly illuminates the path forward

**Reform Versus Dreams** Rosalind LaRocque, 2012-03-22 School change has been at center of school reform and many schools have moved to meet the needs of students in various areas In many instances there has been only one addition to the school system to serve as the element of school change Today's school communities need a deeper understanding not only of what research says about school change but also of the specifics about how to apply the rich treasure of research available to help in their own improvement process and Rosalind's account addresses that need But this is no mere academic discussion This book is a valuable tool for effective change Yes this book is here just in time It reminds readers that student centered approaches that include clear achievable program goals relevant and rigorous curriculum post high school goal setting research based instruction a respectful and productive learning environment and parent involvement turn reform plans into decisive actions with successful results The lessons learned from the 90s and lessons to be learned from this book will surely help our most challenged learners and their teachers

**Inside the Black Box of Classroom Practice** Larry Cuban, 2013-03-01 2015 Outstanding Book Award Association for Educational Communications Technology AECT A book that explores the problematic connection between education policy and practice while pointing in the direction of a more fruitful relationship Inside the Black Box of Classroom Practice is a provocative culminating statement from one of America's most insightful education scholars and leaders Inside the Black Box of Classroom Practice takes as its starting point a strikingly blunt question With so many major structural changes in U S public schools over the past century why have classroom practices been largely stable with a modest blending of new and old teaching practices leaving contemporary classroom lessons familiar to earlier generations of school goers It is a question that ought to be of paramount interest to all who are interested in school reform in the United States It is also a question that comes naturally to Larry Cuban whose much admired books have focused on various aspects of school reform their promises wrong turns partial successes and troubling failures In this book he returns to this territory but trains his focus on the still baffling fact that policy reforms no matter how ambitious or determined have generally had little effect on classroom conduct and practice Cuban explores this problem from a variety of angles Several chapters look at how teachers in responding to major policy initiatives persistently adopt changes and alter particular routine practices while leaving dominant ways of teaching largely undisturbed Other chapters contrast recent changes in clinical medical practice with those in classroom teaching comparing the practical effects of varying medical and education policies The book's concluding chapter distills important insights from these various explorations taking us inside the black box of the book's title those workings that have repeatedly transformed dramatic policy initiatives into familiar and largely unchanged classroom practices

*Real Talk for*

*Real Teachers* Rafe Esquith, 2014-06-24 The New York Times bestselling author and world renown teacher offers no nonsense wisdom for teachers of all ages There s no one teachers trust more to give them classroom advice than Rafe Esquith After more than thirty years on the job Esquith still puts in the countless classroom hours familiar to every dedicated educator But where his New York Times bestseller *Teach Like Your Hair s on Fire* was food for a teacher s mind *Real Talk for Real Teachers* is food for a teacher s soul Esquith candidly tackles the three stages of life for the career teacher and offers encouragement to see them through the difficult early years advice on mid career classroom building and novel ideas for longtime educators With his trademark mix of humor practicality and boundless compassion Esquith proves the perfect companion for teachers who need a quick pick me up a long heart to heart or just a momentary reminder that they re not alone

**We Do Our Part** Charles Peters, 2017-03-07 The legendary editor who founded the *Washington Monthly* explores the resentful unequal uncaring parts of today s American culture that Trump has inflamed and that have made Trump possible and how to cope with them *The Atlantic* Foreword by Jon Meacham With clarity and wit the legendary editor Charles Peters explains the chasm that defines us today the split between the educated elite and the working class rural and religious voters who live in what s condescendingly but tellingly known as flyover country The beginning of the end of Trumpism will come when blue state sophisticates confront their role in creating the political economic and cultural resentments that propelled the forty fifth president into office Too many Democrats lost touch with the average American Peters argues when the liberal elite became more concerned with being smarter having better taste and making more money than with understanding why workers were earning less and hated being regarded with contempt It was this hatred of being looked down on as bigoted boobs in polyester that united working class rural and evangelical voters and helped set the stage for the culturally populist backlash of 2016 and beyond In *We Do Our Part* Peters shows us where we have been and where we are going drawing on his invaluable perspective as a man who has seen America s better days and still believes in the promise that lies ahead Praise for *We Do Our Part* Peters weaves a synthesis of mainstream and progressive centrist and popular thought that would re anchor the Democratic Party both in its own traditions and in outreach to the restless angry swath of the country that elected President Trump Peters is an American original *The Washington Post* A great book about modern American history *Chris Matthews Hardball*

[Life Stories](#) Maureen O'Connor, 2011-08-23 Memoirs autobiographies and diaries represent the most personal and most intimate of genres as well as one of the most abundant and popular Gain new understanding and better serve your readers with this detailed genre guide to nearly 700 titles that also includes notes on more than 2 800 read alike and other related titles The popularity of this body of literature has grown in recent years and it has also diversified in terms of the types of stories being told and persons telling them In the past readers advisors have depended on access by names or Dewey classifications and subjects to help readers find autobiographies they will enjoy This guide offers an alternative organizing the literature according to popular genres subgenres and themes that reflect common

reading interests Describing titles that range from travel and adventure classics and celebrity autobiographies to foodie memoirs and environmental reads Life Stories A Guide to Reading Interests in Memoirs Autobiographies and Diaries presents a unique overview of the genre that specifically addresses the needs of readers advisors and others who work with readers in finding books

**The Almanac of American Philanthropy** Karl Zinsmeister,2017-10-17 Philanthropy in America is a giant undertaking every year more than 390 billion is voluntarily given by individuals foundations and businesses to a riot of good causes Donation rates are two to ten times higher in the U S than in comparable nations and privately funded efforts to solve social problems enrich culture and strengthen society are among the most significant undertakings in the United States The Almanac of American Philanthropy was created to serve as the definitive reference on America s distinctive philanthropy Upon its publication it immediately became the authoritative yet highly readable 1 342 page bible of private giving chronicling the greatest donors in history the most influential achievements the essential statistics and summaries of vital ideas about charitable action Now there is this new Compact Edition of the Almanac It offers highlights of the crucial information and fascinating arguments contained in the full length Almanac in a condensed format All updated to 2017

About Learning and Education Dr. Dawlat Bishara,Dr. Safwat Bishara,2015-08-26 Developed societies have world class healthcare and good education Both command a good portion of the budget and public interest America has healthcare services that are the envy of the world But education has been suffering over the past few decades as evidenced by our childrens low scores on the international PISA Test when compared with other industrialized nations in math science and reading Many blamed lack of funding poverty and minority students Education powerhouses Finland and Korea regularly recruited their teachers from the top of their graduating class Students were serious and studied hard their parents were cognizant of the significance of education and set high expectations for their children The society respected the teaching profession Children were aware of their teachers achievements they were respectful and spared no effort to learn

**The Urban School System of the Future** Andy Smarick,2012 For more than two generations the traditional urban school system the district has utterly failed to do its job prepare its students for a lifetime of success Millions and millions of boys and girls have suffered the grievous consequences The district is irreparably broken For the sake of today s and tomorrow s inner city kids it must be replaced The Urban School System of the Future argues that vastly better results can be realized through the creation of a new type of organization that properly manages a city s portfolio of schools using the revolutionary principles of chartering It will ensure that new schools are regularly created that great schools are expanded and replicated that persistently failing schools are closed and that families have access to an array of high quality options This new entity will focus exclusively on school performance meaning among other things our cities can thoughtfully integrate their traditional public charter public and private schools into a single high functioning k 12 system For decades the district has produced the most heartbreaking results for already at risk kids The Urban School System of the Future



explains how we can finally turn the tide and create dynamic responsive high performing self improving urban school systems that fulfill the promise of public education [The Death and Life of the Great American School System](#) Diane Ravitch,2016-06-28 An urgent case for protecting public education from one of America s best known education experts In this landmark book Diane Ravitch former assistant secretary of education and a leader in the drive to create a national curriculum examines her career in education reform and repudiates positions that she once staunchly advocated Drawing on over forty years of research and experience Ravitch critiques today s most popular ideas for restructuring schools including privatization the Common Core standardized testing the replacement of teachers by technology charter schools and vouchers She shows conclusively why the business model is not an appropriate way to improve schools Using examples from major cities like New York Philadelphia Chicago Denver and San Diego Ravitch makes the case that public education today is in peril and includes clear prescriptions for improving America s schools [The Death and Life of the Great American School System](#) is more than just an analysis of the state of play of the American education system It is a must read for any stakeholder in the future of American schooling [In the Crossfire](#) John P. Spencer,2012-08-16 As media reports declare crisis after crisis in public education Americans find themselves hotly debating educational inequalities that seem to violate their nation s ideals Why does success in school track so closely with race and socioeconomic status How to end these apparent achievement gaps [In the Crossfire](#) brings historical perspective to these debates by tracing the life and work of Marcus Foster an African American educator who struggled to reform urban schools in the 1960s and early 1970s As a teacher principal and superintendent first in his native Philadelphia and eventually in Oakland California Foster made success stories of urban schools and children whom others had dismissed as hopeless only to be assassinated in 1973 by the previously unknown Symbionese Liberation Army in a bizarre protest against an allegedly racist school system Foster s story encapsulates larger social changes in the decades after World War II the great black migration from South to North the civil rights movement the decline of American cities and the ever increasing emphasis on education as a ticket to success Well before the accountability agenda of the No Child Left Behind Act or the rise of charter schools Americans came into sharp conflict over urban educational failure with some blaming the schools and others pointing to conditions in homes and neighborhoods By focusing on an educator who worked in the trenches and had a reputation for bridging divisions [In the Crossfire](#) sheds new light on the continuing ideological debates over race poverty and achievement Foster charted a course between the extremes of demanding too little and expecting too much of schools as agents of opportunity in America He called for accountability not only from educators but also from families taxpayers and political and economic institutions His effort to mobilize multiple constituencies was a key to his success and a lesson for educators and policymakers who would take aim at achievement gaps without addressing the full range of school and nonschool factors that create them

*Publicization* Jonathan Gyurko,2024-03-22 How public are America s public schools They may be tax funded and free but

the effects of market based policies exclusionary governance insufficient funding and structural inequities impair schools ability to prepare future citizens workers neighbors and stewards of the planet Gyurko offers a fresh look at the publicness of American education through historical accounts scholarly research first hand reporting and political analyses Chapters on funding governance standards accountability and equity show what must be done to better identify and strengthen the shared aims of public schools Novel insights explain how even controversial topics like charter schools testing teacher tenure and unions can be part of a broad Publicization Project Champions of public education will find a compelling vision and achievable roadmap that moves the country beyond decades of privatization Publicization is an essential introduction to major debates of past years with a hopeful vision of what it means to be an educated American Book Features Speaks directly to political controversies affecting education including school choice book banning the reading wars board elections critical race theory and teacher unions Offers first hand never before reported accounts of high profile efforts involving prominent political players including AFT president Randi Weingarten former U S education secretary Arne Duncan former NYC mayors Michael R Bloomberg and Bill de Blasio and schools chancellor Joel I Klein Success Academy CEO Eva Moskowitz former PBS correspondent John Merrow KIPP cofounder David Levin late philanthropist Eli Broad small schools founder Deborah Meier and historian and activist Diane Ravitch Provides pragmatic recommendations that cross political divides including a fresh look at charter schools the role of unions and collective bargaining parent involvement in school decision making standardized testing and equity advancing reforms Gathers the history of education ideas thinkers and past reforms to provide new generations of educators with a cogent summary of what has come before to inform what comes next

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together. Multiply the middle pair together. Common Core State Standards for Mathematics Solve addition and subtraction word problems, and add and subtract within 10, e.g., by using objects or drawings to represent the problem. 3. Decompose numbers ...

## **Work Hard Be Nice How Two Inspired Teachers Created The Most Promising Schools In America Jay Mathews**

Book Review: Unveiling the Power of Words

In a global driven by information and connectivity, the ability of words has become more evident than ever. They have the capability to inspire, provoke, and ignite change. Such is the essence of the book **Work Hard Be Nice How Two Inspired Teachers Created The Most Promising Schools In America Jay Mathews**, a literary masterpiece that delves deep to the significance of words and their impact on our lives. Published by a renowned author, this captivating work takes readers on a transformative journey, unraveling the secrets and potential behind every word. In this review, we shall explore the book is key themes, examine its writing style, and analyze its overall impact on readers.

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**Work Hard Be Nice How Two Inspired Teachers Created The Most Promising Schools In America Jay Mathews Introduction**

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